Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W

R 271301Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMCONSUL MADRAS INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0818

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 1252

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: REPORTING SCHEDULE ON INDIAN ELECTIONS

- 1. WE CURRENTLY ARE THINKING OF FOLLOWING SCHEDULE FOR PERIODIC CONSOLIATED REPORTS TO DEPT ON INDIAN ELECTIONS. WE ASSUME, OF COURSE, THAT CONGENS WILL CONTINUE USUAL EXCELLENT SPOT REPORTING OF DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR OUTSIDE OF THIS SPECIFIC SCHEDULE.
- 2. BY FEBRUARY 1, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CONGEN AND USIS JOINT ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL INDIAN PRESS (ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR) ATTITUDES AND HANDLING OF COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS. EVALUATION OF PRESS COVERAGE OF OPPOSITION AND CONGRESS SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED IN EACH OF SUBSEQUENT ELECTION ASSESSMENTS SUBMITTED (SEE BELOW).
- 3. THURSDAY, FEB 3, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CONGENS' DETAILED ASSESSMENTSOF CONGRESS "TICKET" DISTRIBUTION WITHIN CONSULAR DISTRICTS SO FAR AS THIS CAN BE DONE. ON THURSDAYS, FEB 17, 24, MARCH 3 AND MARCH 10, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE GENERAL CONGEN EVALUATIONS OF HOW ELECTION IS SHAPING UP IN YOUR AREAS AND KEY LOCAL ISSUES CONFIDENTIAL

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AND PROBLEMS WHICH APPEAR LIKELY TO AFFECT RESULTS.

4. THE MAIN FOCUS OF OUR OWN REPORTING WILL PROBABLY BE ON THE ATMOSPHERE AND DEGREE OF FAIRNESS WITH WHICH THE ELECTION IS BEING CONDUCTED. WE EXPECT TO AVOID SPECIFIC ATTEMPTS TO FORMALLY REPORT TO WASHINGTON ON STATE-BY-STATE PROSPECTS FOR CONGRESS AND OPPOSI-

TION CANDIDATES, ALTHOUGH GENERAL TREND AS CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES WILL PROBABLY BE SIGNALED TO DEPARTMENT. WE NEED FOR OUR OWN INTERNAL EVALUATION, HOWEVER, THE MORE DETAILED AND SPECIFIC REPORTING WE HAVE REQUESTED ABOVE.

5. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THIS GENERAL APPROACH POSES ANY PROBLEMS. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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